



## St Asaph Flood Risk Management Scheme

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is working with partner organisations and the community to design and deliver a new flood risk management scheme for St Asaph, which will reduce the risk of flooding from the River Elwy. The scheme will involve raising the city's existing flood defences, constructing new flood defence structures and replacing a bridge.

### What causes flooding in St Asaph?

Flooding in St Asaph from the River Elwy is caused by high rainfall over the river catchment, resulting in increased water levels within the river, which can eventually overtop existing defences through the city.

There is no tidal influence on flooding in St Asaph as the city is around 13 metres above sea level. Llyn Aled reservoir is located further upstream in the catchment and is operated in such a way that it does not affect flooding at St Asaph.

### What is the current risk of flooding to St Asaph from River Elwy?

The River Elwy's flow increases quickly after heavy rain within the catchment. In November 2012 the city's flood defences were overwhelmed as extreme rainfall caused the river to rise over three metres above its normal level. This flood was estimated to have between a one in 100 and one in 200 chance of happening in any given year.

### Where are flood risk management improvements needed?

The Welsh Government has approved NRW's proposals for a scheme to further reduce the risk of flooding to St Asaph.

The scheme will improve flood risk management throughout St Asaph, from upstream of the New Inn to downstream of Spring Gardens.

### What does the scheme involve?

The scheme involves raising existing defences throughout the city, through a combination of higher embankments and walls. Defences will be raised by between 0.4 metres and 1.0 metres above existing levels. New sections of defence walls will be constructed upstream of St Asaph Bridge and along the Lower Denbigh Road upstream of the New Inn. Additionally, the Spring Gardens Bridge will be replaced with a higher span bridge so that it does not impede the river channel during high flows. Flood risk management work will also take place at Dol Afon and Rhuddlan.

### What next?

We will start construction on Spring Gardens Bridge in October 2016, with the start of the second phase of works planned for January 2017, subject to necessary approvals. The whole scheme will take between 12 and 18 months to complete.

NRW has awarded the construction contract for the first phase of the flood scheme to North Wales based company, Dawnus.

This involves removing Spring Gardens Bridge and replacing it with a higher and wider bridge. This will increase flow capacity downstream of the city, which will reduce flood water levels in St Asaph.

The second phase of the scheme will see flood defences improved and enhanced in the city and at other locations, benefitting properties and the wider area. We are currently in discussion with Dawnus with a view to them potentially being appointed to undertake these works.

### **What happens in terms of flood risk management during construction?**

Until the scheme is completed, short-term measures to reduce flood risk will continue on the River Elwy. This includes installing temporary flood barriers when required along a 150 metre stretch of the river.

### **How much disruption will there be as a result of the construction?**

There will be temporary disruption, but NRW and Dawnus will work to minimise this as far as possible. We will aim to try and keep footpaths open or provide alternative diversions if required. We will provide names and telephone numbers for the project team so that if you have enquiries during the works, you know who to contact.

### **Are all permissions in place for the scheme?**

Planning permission has been received from Denbighshire County Council (DCC) for replacing Spring Gardens Bridge. A planning application for the new and raised defences was submitted to DCC at the end of September with a decision expected by/in December 2016. Consent to work on St Asaph Common was received in September 2016 from Welsh Government.

### **What are the environmental impacts?**

NRW undertook a detailed assessment of the impacts resulting from the scheme. During construction we will:

- Minimise any impact on the river and riparian corridor for people and wildlife; this will include minimising impact to trees and habitats;
- Minimise impacts on conservation areas and local heritage features. For example, the new defence will be set back on new lines to improve the setting of the historic bridge and we are working with Cadw and Denbighshire CC to interpret this important structure, which is both Listed and a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- Provide environmental enhancements, where possible, throughout the scheme. These include improving St Asaph's foot and cycle-paths, and providing a boost to biodiversity by planting trees and bluebells and putting up bird and bat boxes.

### **How can I get flood warnings?**

Anyone concerned about flooding can check their flood risk, and find out if a free flood warning service is available in their area by calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188 or by visiting [www.naturalresources.wales/flooding](http://www.naturalresources.wales/flooding).

### **Further Information**

If you have any questions about the scheme or require any further information please visit our website: [naturalresources.wales/stasaph](http://naturalresources.wales/stasaph)

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